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SUBJECT: Progressive Magazine's 2005 Award Winners for
Acting "For the Public Good"

Ref: Guangzhou 4104 (notal)

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1. (SBU) Summary and comment: Li Datong, the originator of the China Youth Daily's "Freezing Point" section, is the most prominent person named in the Nanfengchuang ("South Wind Window") list of 2005 annual award winners for acting "for the public good" -- the magazine's raison d'etre. Then again, Nanfengchuang would have lost credibility as south China's most progressive journal if it had not included Li. The other 35 Nanfengchuang individual and organization award winners are arguably less controversial, from a Chinese government perspective. One foreign recipient was a Japanese woman who worked to maintain the truth about the Nanjing Massacre -- demonstrating the periodical's patriotic credentials. Other foreign or foreign-linked award recipients included the International Finance Corporation, Greenpeace, the religiously based Amity Foundation, and the committee of East Asian scholars from a variety of countries who jointly compiled an "objective" history of the region. Domestic award-winners included a respectable list of government officials or agencies who took extraordinary efforts -- sometimes at the cost of careers -- on behalf of local citizens and constituents, individuals who were extraordinarily generous despite sometimes personal straitened circumstances, and campaigners for freedom of expression, labor justice, environmental protection, public health, the rule of law, and other worthy causes. This message uses synopses of Nanfengchuang's award citation remarks for each recipient and does not constitute the Consulate's commentary. We have provided synopses on all the award winners so that some of our readership might have handy a representative list of individuals and organizations who, at least from the Nanfengchuang's perspective, make up part of the fabric of China's very limited civil society sector. Notable is the nearly total absence from the list of any prominent private business philanthropists -- the subject of a future message by Consulate Guangzhou. End Summary and Comment.

2005 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS
CATEGORY: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Zhang Hongjun: resigning with ease

12. (U) When he was a senior official as the Director of the Pricing Bureau of Fuyang City, Zhang, 46, had the unusual courage not to follow the hidden rules of the leadership. He overruled the inappropriate collecting of fees by the local education bureau and schools, a decision that led to revenge by local municipal leaders. Later he was transferred to another position from which he resigned and became an ordinary citizen.

CATEGORY: PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

Hong Kezhu: calling for education equity

13. (U) Hong, 62, is a delegate to the National Congress. He made a well-known proposal requesting "the unifying of the entrance exams and admission scores by the 30 key national universities." Hong pointed out that big cities like Beijing and Shanghai occupied excessively large and unfair proportion of quality education resources compared with other provinces. He not only pointed out the problem on behalf of the people's interest, but also was constructive in providing a solution in his proposal. He is also complimented for his modern public affairs awareness in seeking political and mass media assistance in realizing his goal.

Zhang Fengxian: the Queen of Proposals

14. (U) Zhang, 62, submitted a total of 187 proposals during her 15 years as a National Congress Delegate and 3 years as a Zhejiang Provincial Congress Delegate. Starting

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as a worker and driven by her tireless pursuit of equity and justice, Zhang focused her proposals on the interest of workers and tried her best to find a systematic and regulated solution. Many of her proposals have been included into the provincial congress's legislative agenda.

CATEGORY: RULE OF LAW

Pu Zhiqiang: a lawyer defending the right of media

15. (U) Pu, 40, has been trying to expand the space for the Chinese media and the public to express their will by introducing famous verdicts and news report from foreign cases involving the freedom of media report and the freedom of expression. He understands that the implementation of all basic citizens' rights stipulated in the Constitution starts with safeguarding freedom of expression. He has participated in a number of cases in which individuals sued official media organizations even when the plaintiffs had little confidence in winning just to try to give justice its due.

Guo Jianmei: defending women's rights

16. (U) Guo, 44, founded the first public-interest organization specializing in providing legal aid and research to women-Women Law Research and Service Center under the Law School of Peking University about ten years ago. Recently, Guo and her team selected cases typical of infringement of women's rights and tried to use these lawsuits to push forward related legislation, with better protections effects, or to promote public awareness of related rules. Typical cases included sexual harassment, labor disputes, equal employment opportunity, and land rights for married women.

CATEGORY: SCHOLARS

He Weifang: showing real independence

17. (U) He is one of the rare scholars who can maintain their independence from power and interest groups and dares to say what the people want to say. He never stops

promoting rule of law in local universities and law enforcement agencies since he found that the one key difficulty in the justice reform was people's confused understanding about the power of natural justice and the ways through which the power should be implemented. He is also outspoken in commenting on big legal cases based on his courage and loyalty to knowledge.

Zhou Qiren: the significance of self-constraint for Chinese economists

¶8. (U) For years Zhou kept a low profile and focused on studying economic problems associated with China's reform process. His theories are based on logic and seriousness, not on the interest of any groups. He provides people with an independent perspective to understand the necessity of reform. He has close relations with business circles, but never sacrifices his independence to suit these circles.

Chen Yan: the boatman between Chinese and French cultures

¶9. (U) Chen, 50, as an overseas Chinese scholar living in France, has been trying to promote cultural exchanges between China and France for the past 20 years. He initiated the 2005 China-Europe Cultural Forum, and compiled a series of books introducing China. He called for the two peoples to listen to and understand each other with reason.

CATEGORY: PERSISTENT RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Hua Ruqi: resigning for the interest of voters

¶10. (U) Hua, 54, was his village's Director of Administration Commission in Hunan Province. In May 2005, Hua organized a collective resignation by officials from over 40 villages in two provinces and Chongqing along the Qingshui River, which had been polluted by several chemical refineries in its upstream areas for years. Their action

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attracted attention from Beijing, and the pollution issue has finally been put on the agenda of the local governments concerned.

Yang Yunbiao: let the voice of the silent majority be heard

¶11. (U) Yang, 33, actively participated in democracy construction of his village. He headed a self-organized right-defending organization that started from about 30 families to over 166 families in several villages. In this year's village election, Yang's organization played a very active role in educating the villagers about the importance of democracy and rule of law. He believed it would be easier for farmers to get their voices heard after they got organized, and this would contribute to social stability.

Lu Fushan: Awakening Luotuo Xiangzi

¶13. (U) (Translator's note: Luotuo Xiangzi, or Camel Xiangzi, a well-known novel by playwright Lao She, recounted the tragic life of a young man in old Beijing who made a living by pulling a rickshaw -- often translated into English as "Rickshaw Boy.") Lu, 32, hailed from Junyang County, Shaanxi Province. A primary school drop-out because of his outrage over the school's arbitrary charges, he made a living by riding a pedicab in Xian City. On the afternoon of February 15, 2000, he was stopped by the traffic police for "breaking regulations on coming to the urban district to do business". Lu's pedicab was unlicensed and was later confiscated by the Xian traffic police pursuant to Xian PSB's "2000 No. 1 Notice." Lu spent five years suing the traffic police for their illegal administrative behavior. His ground was that the traffic police did not hand down the Administrative Punishment Decision according to legal procedure and that Xian PSB was not a legitimate body to enact economic punishment

according to the "Administrative Punishment Law." Lu lost his case in the courts of first and second instances but won support from the Shaanxi Higher People's Court, which ordered the Xian Intermediate Court to retry the case. Lu finally won the case and got his pedicab back with compensation from the traffic police. He got the award for his efforts in making Xian's administrative department act according to law, thereby reducing arbitrary law enforcement.

Zhu Wenguang; A Zorro who studies Law

¶14. (U) Zhu, 48, hails from Zhongjiang County, Sichuan Province. He started rescue work as a volunteer in 1994 and has successfully rescued over 170 abducted women and forced laborers in Shanxi and Henan provinces. He also helped 8 workers or their families who died or were disabled because of work injuries in Guangdong and Shanxi provinces to gain compensation. His voluntary rescue work brought him fame as well as troubles from a 27-day jail to a forced closure of his "Zorro Rescue Center." He gradually enhanced his legal knowledge doing rescue work and realized the need to transform himself from a "Zorro" to a "legal worker." He got the award since his accumulation of legal knowledge and awareness was a typical case of the sustainable development of Chinese society.

Qiao Songju: Tipping off Avian Flu

¶15. (U) Qiao, 31, is from Jiangsu Province. On October 13, 2005, he got a call from his father, saying that a friend who raised geese in Anhui province was going to sell the sick geese to Jiangsu province. Qiao suspected that the geese were infected with avian influenza and called the Secretary to Director-General of Veterinarian Bureau in the

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State Agriculture Ministry. The Agriculture Ministry immediately sent a team to investigate, culling over 100,000 poultry and vaccinating another 100,000, an act praised by WHO as a timely control of the epidemic outbreak in Anhui. However, two days after the epidemic was announced, Qiao was taken to the local public security bureau, who suspected that his tip-off was in exchange for money from the State Agriculture Ministry. The local PSB

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later handed down an "Arrest Notification," saying that Qiao should be put under criminal detention for alleged blackmailing in a fake vaccine case. Qiao's family said he tipped off the government about fake vaccines in that case and angered local organizations. Qiao was given the award because he demonstrated the courage and public spirit of an ordinary citizen during a crisis despite pressure from social relations and local governments focused mainly on pursuing an economic development strategy.

CATEGORY: DISSEMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Li Datong: People's Trust is condition on which newspapers rely for existence

¶16. (U) Li, 53, hails from Beijing. On August 15, 2005, Li, veteran editor at China Youth Daily and chief of the paper's well-known section called "Bingdian" ("Freezing Point"), wrote an open letter in a high-profile move criticizing the paper's new draft appraisal system to link pay with praise for violating the standard measuring news values and deprived the journalists' rights to reveal social and official corruption. His letter finally made the Party Committee of China Youth Daily scrap the draft and design a new one. Li got the award for his persistent professionalism in presenting quality news to the readers and stepping forward to safeguard the honor of his profession.

Li Yang: Movie as a kind of care

¶17. (U) Li, 47, hails from Xian City. The movie "Blind Shaft," Li's debut feature, was also a multiple award winning film. By investing all of his money and even money borrowed from his relatives, Li produced a film that depicted the terrible situation of coal miners in China. "The Award for Public Interest" given to such a low key film director in the mainland was not to recognize his professionalism as a film maker, but to show respect for his unrelenting pursuit of revealing human nature and expressing humanitarian concern.

Matsuoka Tamaki: Revealing the concealed truth

¶18. (U) Matsuoka Tamaki, 58, is a native of Osaka, Japan. As the only Japanese, together with other three Chinese, she received the "Special Contribution Prize" presented by Nanjing Memorial Hall of Compatriots Murdered in the Nanjing Massacre. A 58-year-old primary school teacher, Matsuoka collected the personal stories of 120 victims and published her second book about the Nanjing Massacre -- "Nanjing Massacre - The Split Soul of the Victims." Matsuoka said it was not easy to collect information from the victims. Most were reluctant to recall the misery and pain they endured, especially those women who had been raped. "I was a primary school teacher and I hope my pupils will know the truth," said Matsuoka.

CATEGORY: GREEN ACTIVISTS

Xiao Liangzhong (deceased): A wave joins the river of freedom

¶19. (U) Xiao, 32, hailed from Diqing, Yunnan Province. On January 5, 2005, Xiao suddenly passed away at the age of ¶32. Before his death, this young anthropologist's health was irreparably undermined by his commitment to leading the fight to block the construction of a dam system in the region of his native village in Yunnan province. The construction was part of an eight-dam power scheme for the Tiger Leaping Gorge and Jinsha River. After comprehensive data collection and site inspections, Xiao worked day and night to contact environmentalists, research institutes, and journalists to support his Letter of Appeal to stop the project. His efforts brought about a meeting attended by nine environmental protection organizations and many experts in this field in Beijing calling for a stop of the eight-dam power construction. It was Xiao's actions that made the world care about the original residents who lived in harmony with the river. In contemporary Chinese society where actions and care are missing, his independence and

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unrelenting inquiries served as a model for intellectuals.

Yun Jianli: Hanjiang River's voice heard through the South and the North

¶20. (U) Yun, 61, is a native of Hubei Province. Environmental NGO organizers are usually in periphery positions, but Yun and her "Green Han Jiang" organization were exceptionally active. The organization trained over 500 "seed teachers" for environmental protection education, attracted over 70,000 citizens to their public education activities, and hosted its own website and internal communication system. Before Yun initiated "Green Han Jiang" in 2002, she served four terms in the municipal and provincial CPPCC. Transforming herself from a member of the elite in the political system to a campaigner in a NGO, she went in person to the suburbs and factories to carry out investigations of pollution and went to Beijing to enunciate her concern and devotion to the Han River. Now the river has greatly improved in water quality, and she has made great contributions to the quality of water being transferred from the south to the north.

CATEGORY: THE CANDLE LIGHT OF LOVE

Bai Fangli (deceased): A pedicab rider in paradise

121. (U) Bai, 93, hailed from Tianjin City. On September 23, 2005, Bai Fangli passed away at the age of 93. Over the last 18 years before his death, he donated RMB 350,000 earned driving a pedicab in Tianjin to fund 300 poor university students. He passed away with zero money in his bank account. Some newspaper estimated that if the charge for a pedicab ride was 0.5 yuan per kilometer, Bai had to have ridden the equivalent of 18 trips around the earth at the equator to earn the RMB 350,000. The old man's reason to fund education was simple: he could not bear children dropping out of school due to poverty. The whole society was touched and perspired from embarrassment because of his actions.

Zhao Huaqiong: Love never failed

122. (U) Zhao, 58, is from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. In Zhao's self-operated hospital, migrant workers only spend RMB 0.5 to see a doctor and around RMB 10 in drug prescriptions, almost half the price one would spend in other hospitals. After retiring from her position as a factory doctor in a state-owned enterprise, Zhao used her own savings to open a private clinic. At the end of 2004, in order to meet the increasingly urgent demand from migrant workers, she sold the house intended for her son's marriage and borrowed money to build a clinic in a hospital for migrant workers. The clinic incurred a loss of RMB 300,000 in its first year of operation as discounts were frequently given to patients and free treatment provided to those without a single penny. At the first anniversary of the hospital, Zhao managed to raise some money to relieve the clinic's current financial difficulties. Though the clinic might end up in failure, Zhao's love never failed. She is like a mirror reflecting some people's indifference to vulnerable societal sectors.

Zhai Meiqing: Set up the first state-level private foundation

123. (U) Zhai, 41, hails from Guangdong Province. Since making a donation in 1992 to build the first Project Hope primary school, Zhai's Xiangjiang Group has helped more than 20,000 drop-outs to return to school and donated an accumulated fund of RMB 300 million to build over 300 schools. In June 2005, Zhai contributed RMB 50 million to set up the "Xiangjiang Social Aid Foundation," which became China's first state-level private foundation after obtaining approval from the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Zhai hopes to see the foundation raise a fund of RMB 1 billion in the coming several years. Although some people question the motivation behind her philanthropy as using the foundation to provide financing help for her capital-intensive business, Miss Zhai deserves respect from the

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public for her "making charity a life mission."

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION AWARDS

Farmers Association of Puzhou Town, Yongji City: Let farmers organize themselves

124. (U) As a grassroots organization, the Farmers Association of Puzhou Town, Yongji City, Shanxi has helped farmers reduce market risks, realize self-learning and self-education, and form beneficial interactions between farmers and government by grassroots. It has offered significant inspiration in exploring how to construct communities in Chinese villages. The farmers Association registered itself with the Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau on June 7, 2004, with the direct support of municipal government leaders. It has more than 3,800 members so far. Since its founding, it has been headed by Zheng Bing and has devoted itself to community construction in villages and the development of rural economy. On October 20, Zheng

and 20 other women farmers around the world won an award from the Women's World Summit Foundation.

Legal Commission of the Fujian People's Congress: Bring medical service into Law on Consumer Rights

¶25. (U) In October 2005, the Fujian People's Congress passed the "Methods of Fujian's Implementation of the Law on Consumer Rights of the People's Republic of China," incorporating medical service into the Law on Consumer Rights. It has completely shattered the unfair status quo in the current medical service system, in which the public's complaints against the medical administration authorities are dealt with by the authorities themselves. Many legislators at local levels are considering the implementing their own version of the "Law on Consumer Rights" to regulate medical service and to form the legal basis for resolving hospital-patient disputes. The national Administration of Industry and Commerce (AIC) has also proposed amendments to the Law on Consumer Rights. The Legal Commission of the Fujian People's Congress, through their own efforts, has benefited the public ahead of national legislators.

Publicity Department of Wenling Committee of the Chinese Communist Party: New explorations of an old department

¶26. (U) The Publicity Department of Wenling has taken the initiative to shoulder the responsibility of reform and innovation, and has made precious accomplishments in the exploration of how to strengthen the Party's governance and how to promote grassroots democracy. It has exemplary significance in the construction of political civilization in all of China during the current transitional period.

Fuzhou Pricing Bureau: First list that itemizes the cost of real estates

¶27. (U) In July 2004, the Fuzhou Pricing Bureau released the country's first list itemizing the average cost of real estate in the city. The list, which is called the "first document that uses accurate statistics to expose the inside of the real estate industry," sparked immediate repercussion in the country's real estate industry and raised heated debates on the subject. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said that "Fuzhou's practice complies with the interest of the mass of the people." According to the list, the profit margin of real estate developers in Fuzhou averaged 50%, with the lowest at 20% and the highest at over 90%.

World and China Research Institute: Democracy begins with election

¶28. (U) As a non-governmental think tank, the World and China Research Institute has a consistent and clear mission: to promote the improvement of China's political system and to promote progress of China's democracy. In the year 2005, which has been a year full of twists and turns in China's grassroots democratic election, they once

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again made independent and sensible judgments. The World and China Research Center was established in 1993 and has had a focus on research in politics. The organization's founder, Li Fan, got his master's degree in Political Science from Ohio State University. The Research Institute has spent a great deal of energy in promoting grassroots election.

Public Alliance Research Office: Take actions under the idealist sky

¶29. (U) The Beijing Public Alliance Research Office was founded in October 2003 and was originally named "Beijing Sunshine Political Research Center." In 2005, it changed

to its current name. In recent years, the presence of the Public Alliance Research Office is always seen on the forefront of conflicts during China's transitional period. Supported by idealism, the Public Alliance Research Office rationally, constructively, and gradually promotes the progress of the society. The office has offered legal advice in a number of high-profile litigation cases. In 2005, one of the office's key projects was the "Report on China's Petition System." In the report, the office exposed problems in the current petition system, calling for reform of the grassroots political system and putting forward some specific suggestions.

Amity Foundation: Moral is proven by love

130. (U) Amity Foundation is a non-governmental charity established by Chinese Christians. For many years, under the banner of love, it has rallied various social groups to introduce international resources into China for the development of rural and poor regions and the betterment of weaker groups. The practice of the Amity Foundation not only brings about tangible help and encouragement to those who are in need but also spreads to the society the values of sympathy, understanding, and concern. It was founded in 1985 by Christians in mainland China, but it has done a lot of things that do not have anything to do with religion, such as education, poverty relief, medical treatment, rural development disaster relief, etc. For instance, in the organization's "Brightness Campaign," Amity Foundation actions helped recover the vision of 180,000 cataract patients.

Greenpeace

131. (U) Greenpeace is a global NGO founded in 1971 and headquartered in Amsterdam, Holland. China's Greenpeace was founded in 1997 and headquartered in Hong Kong. In the year 2005, Greenpeace worked on 4 areas in China: climate change and recyclable energy, food safety and sustainable agriculture, prevention and control of toxics, protection of primitive forests. In 2005 Greenpeace exacted a HP promise not to use toxic substances in their products; investigated APP's illegal destruction of forests in Hainan; exposed the illegal growing of genetically modified rice in Hubei; suggested to the Guangdong Government the construction of wind power plants, and so forth.

SACOM: Recover the conscience of Mickey Mouse

132. (U) SACOM (Students and Scholars Against Corporate Misbehavior) conducted a special investigation of Disney that unveiled the low-cost secrets of authorized product manufacturing, requested the multinational company to increase the unit price of in its orders, and established a monitoring system based on workers democracy so as to enhance the level of corporate social responsibility. On August 18, 2005, less than one month before the grand opening of the Hong Kong Disneyland, SACOM released a 20,000-word report entitled "Recover the Conscience of Mickey Mouse," which was based on their half-year investigation of several Disney suppliers located in Dongguan and Shenzhen. The report accused Disney suppliers of underpaying workers.

Phoenix Satellite TV's "Oral History" program: Save memory

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and reflect on history

133. (U) When we are requesting our neighboring country to reflect on history, this program is fighting against the collective oblivion of the history of the Chinese nation itself. The program allows some witnesses of history to come to the screen, and to tell the audience stories that have been hidden in their hearts for many years, bringing rich details to the Chinese people's memory of modern and

contemporary history. The program not only broadens the verbal space of the Chinese language media, but also serves as "first aid" to people's memory. In this sense, "Oral History" has huge significance. Since the launch of the program, it has followed strictly the Party's rules concerning publicity, and that only historical events officially approved for public commentary can be included in the program. Yet, despite these limitations, the program still raises emotions of the audience.

The Compiling Committee of the Asian History Book:
cooperation on compiling history book reflects attitude at
the non-governmental level

¶34. (U) The publication of the "Modern and Contemporary History of Three Countries in East Asia" has a more important significance than the book itself. It reflects the non-governmental level attitude in the future cooperation and exchanges in the East Asian region, and creates a model in solving historical conflicts among different nations -- that is, to gain common grounds through discussion.

International Finance Corporation: Profits can be green

¶35. (U) The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was founded in 1956 and is headquartered in Washington D.C. A member of the World Bank Group, as a profit-making finance institute, IFC considers the elimination of negative impacts of investments on the environment and society as the necessary condition for investments, and sets this principle as a benchmark in the industry. It sets up corporate social standards, environment standards and other standards, which have become its bottom line in selecting investment companies. Enterprises that have only good financial indicators but do not pass third-party social audits and environment audits are rejected by IFC. The performance of IFC and its partners such as the German-based DEG has added the color of green to an financial investment industry which normally adheres exclusively to the principle of "profit is everything."

Beijing Medical Team: Prioritize medical service and public health in rural villages

¶36. (U) Over the last 40 years, the Beijing Medical Team has single-mindedly conducted medical service in rural villages in Linzhou, Henan Province. Many well-known doctors have worked in those rural villages. They offer free diagnosis and free medical treatments to the local people, and made it a national-class base for esophagus cancer prevention and control.

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